INFORMATION LETTER

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Prospective Plantings of Vegetables for Processing

On the basis of reports of intentions to plant, the prospective acreage of eight vegetables for processing this year is about 9 percent above last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The vegetables for processing for which the USDA estimates larger acreages, as of April 15, are snap beans, up 4 percent; beets, up 11 percent; contract cabbage, up 28 percent; sweet corn, up 16 percent; green peas, up 6 percent; winter and early spring spinach, up 3 percent; and tomatoes, up 10 percent.

Of the eight crops for which acreage estimates have been issued thus far this season, a decrease is indicated only for cucumbers for pickles, down 4 percent.

The eight crops usually account for nearly 90 percent of the planted acreage of the 11 vegetables for processing covered in regular USDA reports.

Details of the acreage estimates are reported in the INFORMATION LETTERS of March 17, page 161; April 14, page 180; and in this issue on page 190.

Domestic Sugar Quotas

USDA on April 25 announced an increase of 100,000 tons in the total sugar quotas for the continental United States for 1956. With this increase the 1956 quotas total 8,450,000 short tons, raw value. The final 1955 quotas totaled 8,400,000 tons.

USDA said that distribution of sugar through April 14 was substantially equal to that for the corresponding period last year, but that there is evidence that the raw sugar market has been dominated by speculative forces in recent weeks. The increase in 1956 quotas was made, it was said, "in order to preserve a stable and healthy sugar market which will provide a supply at prices which are not excessive to consumers and which will maintain and protect the welfare of the domestic sugar industry."

Senate Antitrust Study of Food Processing Industries

Senator O'Mahoney (Wyo.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee, this week announced the general scope of a planned investigation of the meat and food processing industries "with the intention of determining what causes, if any, are to be found in those industries to explain why the farmer's share of the consumer dollar has been declining so markedly."

The investigation is a continuation of the study begun last December. At that time the subcommittee was seeking to determine, with respect to chain grocery buying practices, whether size produces market power, bringing harmful results without specific wrongdoing as spelled out in the antitrust laws.

Senator O'Mahoney announced that Donald P. McHugh, formerly of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, has been named as chief counsel to the Subcommittee to carry on the investigation.

A statement by Senator O'Mahoney said, in part:

"Statistics have been available from the press and business magazines for many years describing the tremendous growth of the billion dollar corporations in the U. S. We shall examine the authenticity of these statistics for the purpose of discovering why the prosperity of these corporations has always been accompanied by requests for federal aid to support small business.

"The growth of the great interstate and international business corporations has been accompanied by the deterioration of local small businesses. This explains why the government has found it necessary to reestablish the Small Business Administration to make loans to small corporations, while the giants continue to grow through accumulated profits."

Senator O'Mahoney said the group would invite the leaders of big and small business to cooperate with the subcommittee "in the hope of suggesting a national code of business ethics which, if put into statutory form, may make unnecesssary antitrust prosecutions by eliminating violations caused by misunderstanding of the purpose and intent of the present laws."

Food Group Issues Bulletin on Chemical Additives

A new 91-page bulletin, *The Use of Chemical Additives in Food Processing*, was recently released by the Food Protection Committee of the National Research Council. The information presented in it was gathered and compiled by a Food Technology Subcommittee, and is based in part on an industry survey and in part on official definitions and regulations. Copies may be obtained free from the Food Protection Committee, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

Usage of chemical additives is classified in Part I of the bulletin according to types of food, e.g. cereal products, processed fruits and vegetables, beverages, etc., and under each of these as to function such as coloring, flavoring, preservative, or stabilizer. Six general classes of foods are thus treated in Part I, entitled "Technological Benefits of Intentional Additives." In Part II, "Intentional Additives Used in Processed Foods," chemical materials are divided into 12 groups as to purpose of use. In each instance some statement is made as to the food application and level of use.

Canning Equipment Sanitation

The two committees on sanitary design and operation of canning equipment, appointed respectively by the N.C.A. and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association, will meet in Washington May 16 to adopt plans for further operations during the coming year.

Their aim, as announced earlier (INFORMATION LETTER of Feb. 25, page 139), is to develop elements of construction and operation of canning equipment embodying the most effec-

(Please turn to page 191)

Tour of N.C.A. Laboratory

On April 19 a laboratory class in food microbiology from the School of Public Health of the University of California toured the N.C.A. Western Research Laboratory. The tour was followed by a short seminar during which the Laboratory program and its relation to the canning industry and the consuming public was explained.

Tomatoes for Processing

Reports on intentions to plant tomatoes for processing in 1956 indicate that acreage will be increased 10 percent over 1955, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If the early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1956 plantings of tomatoes for processing will total 355,550 acres. This compares with the revised estimate of 322,720 acres planted in 1955 and the 1945-54 average plantings of 412,840 acres.

Abandonment of planted acreage averaged about 3 percent annually during the most recent 10-year period. If such a loss occurs on the indicated 355,550 acres, about 344,900 acres will be harvested in 1956. This compares with 317,920 acres harvested in 1955 and the average of 400,220 acres.

State	10-year av. 1945-54	1955	1955 Prospective	Percent change from 1955
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
N. Y.	21,800	13,000	13,000	....
N. J.	32,140	25,400	26,200	+ 3
Pa.	26,680	22,500	23,000	+ 2
Ohio	24,370	16,000	16,000	....
Ind.	55,250	32,300	34,000	+ 5
Ill.	11,700	9,000	10,400	+ 8
Mich.	7,090	6,600	7,300	+11
Wis.	1,390	1,000	1,100	+10
Iowa	1,990	1,400	1,900	+36
Mo.	6,640	1,600	1,700	+ 6
Del.	6,030	6,600	7,300	+11
Md.	31,400	15,200	14,000	- 8
Va.	20,610	13,500	14,200	+ 5
S. C.	1,730	1,200	1,400	+17
Fla.	4,700	8,400	8,000	-5
Ky.	2,550	1,300	1,300	....
Tenn.	2,980	600	600	....
Ark.	9,470	3,000	3,300	+10
Okla.	1,540	200	200	....
Texas	21,080	15,000	13,500	-10
Colo.	4,090	3,400	3,800	+12
Utah	7,170	6,800	6,600	- 3
Calif.	106,040	116,300	145,000	+25
Other states[1]	3,770	1,820	1,750	- 4
U. S. Total	412,840	322,720	355,550	+10

[1] Ala., Ariz., Conn., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Beets for Canning

An increase of about 11 percent over 1955 plantings of beets for canning is indicated for 1956, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If acreage prospects materialize, the 1956 plantings of canning beets will total 20,720 acres, compared with the 1955 plantings of 18,590 acres and the 1945-54 average of 17,090 acres.

State	10-year av. 1945-54	1955	1955 Prospective	Percent change from 1955
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
New York	4,120	5,300	6,000	+13
Michigan	1,070	750	800	+ 7
Wisconsin	6,900	7,700	8,100	+ 5
Oregon	1,630	1,600	1,700	+ 6
Other states[1]	3,370	3,240	4,120	+27
U. S. Total	17,090	18,590	20,720	+11

[1] Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Maine, Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Cucumbers for Pickles

A decrease of about 4 percent from the 1955 plantings of cucumbers for pickles is indicated for 1956, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If the early-season prospects materialize, the 1956 plantings of cucumbers for pickles will total 129,070 acres, compared with the 1955 plantings of 134,220 acres and the 10-year average of 144,140 acres.

Assuming average abandonment of 8 percent, in line with recent years, there would be about 118,700 acres for harvest. This compares with 126,200 acres harvested in 1955 and an average of 131,460 acres for the 1945-54 period.

The principal producing state last year, Michigan, indicates 38,200 acres, an increase of 2 percent. Wisconsin reports 19,400 acres, up 8 percent. The third largest producer, North Carolina, indicates 12,200 acres, down 10 percent.

1955 Pack of Blueberries

The 1955 pack of blueberries totaled 683,752 actual cases as compared with the 1954 pack of 896,721 cases, according to a report of the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

State	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Maine	639,406	391,116
Other states	257,315	292,636
U. S. Total	896,721	683,752

1955 Pack of Spinach and Other Greens

The 1955 pack of canned spinach totaled 5,829,400 actual cases as compared with the 1954 pack of 3,871,023 cases, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

The Division also has issued reports on the 1955 packs of turnip greens, mustard greens, and other greens.

	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Spinach	3,871,023	5,829,400
Turnip greens	1,226,921	1,335,688
Mustard greens	625,201	706,643
Other greens	253,205	466,650

1955 Pack of Spinach

State	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Maryland	191,301	236,498
Ark., Mo., and Okla.	945,549	1,498,136
Texas	(a)	(a)
California	2,387,079	3,206,666
Other states	347,094	888,160
U. S. Total	3,871,023	5,829,400

(a) Included in other states, which include Miss., N. Y., Tenn., Texas, Va., Wash., and Wis.

1955 Pack of Turnip Greens

State	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Georgia	(a)	100,212
Maryland	50,611	61,351
Ozarks	743,160	762,454
Texas	48,590	(a)
Other states	384,560	411,671
U. S. Total	1,226,921	1,335,688

(a) Included in other states, which include Calif., Fla., Miss., Tenn., Texas, and Va.

1955 Pack of Mustard Greens

State	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Georgia	(a)	(a)
Maryland	12,162	14,352
Ozarks	456,540	532,867
Texas	11,522	(a)
Other states	144,977	159,424
U. S. Total	625,201	706,643

(a) Included in other states, which include Calif., Fla., Miss., Tenn., Texas, and Va.

Canners' Stocks of Spinach

Following is a summary of canners' stocks of canned spinach on March 1 compared with a year earlier:

State	March 1 1955	March 1 1956
	(actual cases)	
Maryland	38,871	18,903
Ozarks	238,310	244,312
California	274,853	392,981
Other states	208,784	578,418
U. S. Total	760,818	1,234,674

Family Weekly Magazine

"Canned Fruit" was the title of the food article in the April issue of *Family Weekly* magazine. This is a Sunday magazine supplement having national distribution. It goes out with approximately 85 newspapers.

Melanie De Proft, *Family Weekly* food editor, says in her article, "When orchards coast-to-coast yield their bounty of sweet, full-ripe fruit, America's great canning industry goes into action to perform its annual miracle. You may do your picking at your convenience from the wondrous variety on the market shelf. This economical harvest of delicious fruit comes from many states and every season."

Three of the six recipes in the article were shown in attractive photographs. The canned fruits used were green gage plums, peaches, pears, dark sweet cherries, red tart cherries, pineapple, blueberries, and raspberries.

The April 15 issue of the magazine featured the article "Evaporated Milk." Along with canned evaporated milk, canned mushrooms, baked beans, chili con carne, pineapple, and anchovy fillets are included in the six recipes.

Grades for Cherry Preserves

The Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA has amended U. S. standards for grades of fruit preserves so as to provide for the inclusion of pieces in cherry preserves which are otherwise U. S. Grade A. Text of the amendment was published in the *Federal Register* of April 24.

Canning Equipment Sanitation

(Concluded from page 189)

tive principles of sanitation. The plan of attack will presumably be by assignment of specific projects to task committees which will be recruited for the purpose.

Following is the personnel of the two committees:

FOR THE CANNING MACHINERY AND SUPPLIES ASSOCIATION

William E. Vaughn, American Can Co., New York City, *Chairman*

Paul C. Wilbur, Food Machinery & Chemical Corp., San Jose, Calif.

W. D. Pheteplace, The Pfaudler Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Dr. C. A. Abele, The Diversey Corp., Chicago, Ill.

James G. McGinnis, Audubon Wire Cloth Corp., Philadelphia, Pa.

Frank S. Langsenkamp, F. H. Langsenkamp Co., Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.

Robert A. Sindall, Jr., A. K. Robins & Co., Baltimore, Md.

FOR THE NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Edwin S. Doyle, National Canners Association, Berkeley, Calif., *Chairman*

S. M. Anderson, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Eric Johannes, Campbell Soup Co., Camden, N. J.

Robert Krupp, Gerber Products Co., Oakland, Calif.

Harvey Scheel, Green Giant Co., LeSueur, Minn.

Charles R. Stumbo, H. J. Heinz Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

D. B. Wood, Wood Canning Company, Stockton, Calif.

Gasoline Excise Tax Refund is for Farmers Only

Benefits under the new gasoline tax law approved on April 2 accrue only to the owner, tenant, or operator of a farm. The law amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 by relieving farmers from excise taxes on gasoline and other special fuels used on the farm for farming purposes. This is accomplished by providing for annual refunds payable by the government to the farmers.

In the original version of the bill, any person using gasoline in connection with the cultivation of the soil or the raising and harvesting of agricultural commodities was entitled to a tax refund. However, the Senate restricted the tax relief solely to the farmer, tenant or operator of the farm on the ground that refunds to independent contractors or custom operators would not benefit the farmer.

In the event gasoline is used on the farm by others for operations connected with cultivating the soil or harvesting, the owner, tenant, or operator of the farm is treated as if he had paid the excise tax and is entitled to the refund.

'Air Mail Personal'

A radio interview between Katherine R. Smith and Nelson H. Budd of the N.C.A. staff recorded recently for distribution on "Air Mail Personal," a DAY syndicated show, has been presented on the following seven stations:

Date	Station	Estimated Listening Audience
Jan. 6	WTTB, Vero Beach, Fla.	4,000
Jan. 22	WIRA, Ft. Pierce, Fla.	13,000
Feb. 12	WFBC, Greenville, S. C.	58,000
Feb. 19	WACH, Newport News, Va.	100,000
Mar. 11	WILM, Wilmington, Del.	110,000
Mar. 11	WKKO, Cocoa, Fla.	4,000
Mar. 18	WWNS, Statesboro, Ga.	15,000

In the interview Mr. Budd described the nuclear tests of canned foods on the Nevada test site and presented results of the several exposures. Miss Smith related her experiences in witnessing the explosion and visiting the various exposure sites. She reported also on the proper methods of emergency storage and advised housewives regarding the safe handling of exposed food packages.

The recorded dialog has been released to a number of other stations and its use will be reported later in the INFORMATION LETTER.

Stocks of Canned Foods on April 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned sweet cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, green and wax beans, pumpkin and squash, tomatoes, tomato juice, catsup, and chili sauce have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, and detailed reports covering the April 1 stock and shipment situation have been mailed to all canners of these products.

	Carryover month	Case basis	Total Supply 1954	Total Supply 1955	Canners' Stocks, April 1 1955	Canners' Stocks, April 1 1956	Season Shipments to April 1 1955	Season Shipments to April 1 1956
			(thousands of cases)					
Cherries, sweet	June	24/2½	1,171	1,647	394	598	777	1,049
Apricots	June	24/2½	3,829	6,144	638	1,870	3,191	4,274
Peaches	June	24/2½	21,880	23,584	4,679	5,509	17,201	18,075
Pears	June	24/2½	8,655	9,932	2,829	3,200	5,826	6,732
Beans, green and wax	July	actual	[1]31,117	28,181	9,222	8,458	[2]21,894	19,723
Pumpkin and squash	July	actual	3,145	3,764	297	460	2,848	3,303
Tomatoes	July	actual	26,455	24,031	5,059	5,154	21,396	18,877
Tomato juice	July	actual	33,540	29,039	12,205	7,050	21,334	21,989
Catsup	July	actual	24,255	25,647	7,284	8,036	16,971	17,611
Chili sauce	July	actual	2,863	2,851	972	937	1,892	1,894

[1] Includes pack from Jan. 1-July 1. [2] Includes shipments from Jan. 1-July 1 pack.

Status of Legislation

Alaskan fisheries—H. R. 8405, to transfer supervision of Alaskan fish and game from the Interior Department to the Territorial Government, will be the subject of an open hearing by the House Interior Subcommittee on Territories May 4.

Anti-merger legislation—The House Judiciary Committee on March 15 reported H. R. 9424, which would require pre-notification of certain mergers and permit preliminary injunctions to restrain mergers.

Customs simplification—The Senate Finance Committee is expected to act on House-passed H. R. 6040 after it completes work on social security legislation. Bill would revise the method by which the value of imported merchandise is determined for customs evaluation.

FDA chemical additives—Hearings on bills to regulate the use of chemical additives in food were concluded Feb. 14, but House Committee has not considered subject in executive session.

FDA codification—H. R. 6991, to revise, codify, and enact into law Title 21 of the U. S. Code entitled "Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics," was passed by the House and is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

FDA imitation food—H. R. 3692, to prohibit the interstate marketing of any "imitation" of a standardized food product, even though the imitation product is plainly labeled as such, is pending before the House Interstate Commerce Committee.

Federal Fisheries Activity—A new bill providing for establishment of a U. S. Fisheries Commission will be considered by the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on May 9. This proposal is a revision of S. 3275, on which hearings have been held. The new bill is to be introduced next week.

Fisheries Education—Hearings on S. 2379, to authorize federal funds for scientific and vocational fisheries education, were concluded by the Senate Fisheries Subcommittee March 26.

Gasoline tax—H. R. 8780, relieving farmers from federal excise tax on fuel used on the farm for farming, was signed by the President and is P. L. 466 (see story, page 191).

Import quotas—H. R. 8954 and other bills to establish an import quota mechanism are pending before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Marketing orders—cranberries—H. R. 8384, to bring cranberries for canning under the orders provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreements Act, is pending before the House Agriculture Committee. No action scheduled.

Marketing orders—potatoes—H. R. 9484 and S. 3262, to establish a national marketing control including potatoes for canning, were introduced Feb. 22. No action scheduled.

Negotiated procurement—House-passed H. R. 8710 is pending before the Senate Armed Services Committee. No action scheduled.

OTC—The House Ways and Means Committee on March 29 amended and approved, H. R. 5550, authorizing U. S. participation in OTC.

Poultry inspection—Bills providing for mandatory inspection of poultry and poultry products have been introduced in both houses.

Price supports—The conference report on H. R. 12 was passed by the House (237-181) and the Senate (50-35) on March 11. Bill continues rigid 90 percent supports in effect on 1956 crops and authorizes the Administration's soil bank proposal. Special appropriations have been proposed in the past week.

Robinson-Patman Act—Hearings on H. R. 11 and similar legislation was concluded by the House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee April 26.

Statehood—H. R. 2535, to provide statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, was recommitted to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Sugar Act—The conference meetings on H. R. 7030, to amend and extend the Sugar Act, were postponed to give priority to farm bill. No further meetings have been announced.

Trip-leasing—The Senate on March 28 amended and sent to the House S. 898, to limit the authority of the ICC to regulate the duration of trip leases for carriers of perishable agricultural and fishery products.

Wage-hour extension—No action scheduled on bills to eliminate all minimum wage and maximum hour exemptions to the present act which are applicable to first processing, canning, and freezing of agricultural and fishery products.

Waste disposal—The House Ways and Means Committee has not completed executive meetings on an omnibus tax bill including a provision to allow the rapid amortization of water pollution treatment works. No action has been scheduled.

Water Pollution—H. R. 9540, to extend and amend the Water Pollution Control Act of 1948, was the subject of public hearings by a House Public Works Subcommittee March 12-15 and is the subject of executive meetings by the same group now.

Canned Foods in Civil Defense

C. A. Greenleaf, Associate Director of the N.C.A. Research Laboratories, participated April 28 in a special instruction session for the civil defense workers of Montgomery County, Maryland. Mr. Greenleaf showed the color slides of the nuclear tests of canned foods in Nevada last year by the Laboratory staff, and explained and described the tests. He stressed the importance and value of canned foods as an emergency supply for civilians in the event of atomic bomb attack.

The slide presentation was also given April 19 before 93 members of the Pennsylvania Approved Laboratory Directors Association at University Park, Pa. The showing was sponsored by Professor Frank B. Thomas of the Department of Horticulture, Pennsylvania State University.

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